



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

1420 E 6th Ave, PO Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701
(406) 444-1267

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

PART I. Purpose of and Need for Action

1. Project Title: Judith Basin Archery Club

2. Type of Proposed Action: Upgrade building to ADA standards, make building repairs and replace archery butts. (See Paragraph 10).

3. Location Affected by Proposed Action: The Judith Basin Archery Club is located on ± 7 acres at the Judith Basin County Fairgrounds and has both an indoor and an outdoor range. The fairground is located on State Land (Common School Grant) and the County has a lease with the State that is renewed every ten years. It is located on Section 17, T16N, R12E on that part of NE1/4SE1/4 lying north and east of State Highway 87 and identified as "5071" on the Plat. (See figure 1).

4. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action: MCA87-1-276 through 87-1-279 (Legislative established policies and procedures for the establishment and improvement of shooting ranges) MCA87-2-105 (Departmental authority to expend funds to provide training in the safe handling and use of firearms and safe hunting practices). The 2007 Montana Legislature has authorized funding for the establishment of a Shooting Range Development Program providing financial assistance for the development of shooting ranges for public purposes. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks has responsibility for the administration of the program, including the necessary guidelines and procedures governing applications for funding assistance under the program.

5. Need for the Action(s): Currently the building doorway and restrooms do not meet ADA standards. Building has other long needed repairs and replacements: Windows are cracked, broken and the wood window frames and building fascia are rotting. Heating system is very old (1966) and needs upgrade to a more efficient and cost effective system. Eighteen permanent outdoor butts (circa 1984) and indoor butts (circa 1999) are deteriorated and require replacement.

6. Objectives for the Action(s): Improve handicapped access to the shooting and building

facilities, making them compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Provide long overdue repairs to deteriorating building and heating systems, i.e. windows, fascia and heat system. Replace 10 – 24 year old indoor and outdoor archery shooting butts for increased safety and efficiency.

7. Maps and Supporting Figures:



Figure 1 – Map Location of Judith Basin Archery Club in Stanford, MT

8. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected:

The area for the ranges is ± 7 acres, with improvements within the club properties.

9. Affected Environment (A brief description of the affected area of the proposed project):

The area affected is the existing Judith Basin Archery Club facilities, which have been in place for over 42 years. The archery facilities are located on the Judith Basin County Fairgrounds that are State Lands leased to the county. The proposed actions will have little impact on the surrounding environment. As they are limited mostly to the building and the existing outdoor archery butts (See Figure 1).

10. Description of Project:

Provide enhanced ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) access to building and facilities: Widen entry door and provide level gravel entryway. Consolidate two ADA non-compliant bathrooms into one ADA compliant bathroom, i.e. new door opening, toilet, sink, faucets, hardware and painting of walls and concrete floor. Install insulation and replace old heating system with a new propane system, including propane tank, lines and hardware. Replace 18 permanent outdoor butts with new carpet butts and also upgrade indoor butts.

In Accordance With (IAW) contracts agreements with Fish, Wildlife & Parks, all projects are to be completed by June 30, 2009.

11. List any Other Local, State, or Federal Agency that has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:

(a) Permits, Licenses and/or Authorizations:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>
N/A	

Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$17,045

12. Affiliations, Cooperating Agencies, User Groups and/or Supporting Groups:

The Judith Basin Rod & Gun Club, which became the Judith Basin Archery Club in 1984, originally built the existing building on the fairgrounds in 1966. The club supports the 4-H rifle and archery instruction and meets and the local Hunter Education programs. The building improvements will also benefit the Judith Basin County fairgrounds as the building is also used for other county fair type activities such as 4-H demonstrations and shows.

13. History of the Planning and Scoping Process, and Any Public Involvement:

Proposed range improvements and safety enhancements had been discussed within the membership of the club and with the associated project vendors and contractors.

14. List of Agencies Consulted/Contacted During Preparation of the EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

15. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor:

Scott Wildung, 118 3rd Ave. S., Stanford, MT 59479, (406) 566-2706

16. Other Pertinent Information:

Shooting range applications require the participant's governing body to approve by resolution its submission of applications for shooting range funding assistance. Resolution Date: March 27, 2008

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Abbreviated Checklist – The degree and intensity determines extent of Environmental Review. An abbreviated checklist may be used for those projects that are not complex, controversial, or are not in environmental sensitive areas)

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		#2
3. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		#5
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectionable odors				X		
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

2. & 5. There are no irrigation ditches, lakes, ponds, rivers, creeks and streams, nor delineated wetlands near the buildings.

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				X		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				X		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural production				X		
5. Human health				X		
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				X		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				X		
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				X		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

Part III. Environmental Consequences

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects that are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur? NO

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant? This proposed action has no impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant.

Cumulative impacts have been assessed considering any incremental impact of the proposed action when they are combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and no significant impacts or substantially controversial issues were found. There are no extreme hazards created with this project and there are no conflicts with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan.

Identification of the Preferred Alternatives:

The proposed alternative A, alternative B and the no action alternative were considered.

- **Alternative A (Proposed Alternative)** is as described in paragraph 10 (Description of Project) to provide ADA building access, ADA bathroom, make building repairs and improvements, add insulation, replace heating system and replace archery butts.
- **Alternative B (No Action Alternative)** Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Shooting Sports Grant money would be denied and the area will remain an as an active archery range without proposed improvements.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented: Two alternatives have been considered, **A** (Proposed Alternative) and **B** (No Action Alternative). There were no other alternatives that were deemed reasonably available, nor prudent.

Neither the proposed **Alternative (A)** nor the no action **Alternative (B)** would have any significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences.

- There are beneficial consequences to Acceptance of the **Proposed Alternative (A)** for handicapped access to archery ranges and buildings, with range and building safety improvements, increases the shooting sports opportunities in Judith Basin county by insuring access for the handicapped and safety improvements to the ranges.
- The **No Action Alternative (B)** would be not to improve handicapped access to the range, not make necessary building repairs, and not to improve range safety, but to continue on with present facilities. Land use would remain the same. Present activities include indoor and outdoor archery ranges without the proposed improvements to the operations. Therefore the proposed alternative is the prudent alternative.

Describe any Alternatives considered and eliminated from Detailed Study:

NONE

List and explain proposed mitigative measures (stipulations):

NONE

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:

Scott Wildung, 118 3rd Ave. S., Stanford, MT 59479, (406) 566-2706
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

PART IV NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

All of the pertinent or potential impacts of the project have been reviewed, discussed, and analyzed. None of the project reviewed were complex, controversial, or located in an environmentally sensitive area. The projects being proposed are on state lands leased from the state by the Judith Basin County and then sub-leased to the Judith Basin Archery Club. The low impact activities proposed, the increased recreational opportunity, and the improved access for the handicapped, all indicate that this should be considered the final version of the environmental assessment. There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative (A). The 42-year history of the Judith Basin Rod & Gun Club, which became the Judith Basin Archery Club in 1984, providing shooting opportunities to its members and the public indicates support for the proposed alternative. Therefore, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should approve the proposed alternative (A) for the modernization and expansion proposals outlined in Para. 2 & 10.

EA prepared by: GENE R. HICKMAN
Ecological Assessments
Helena, MT 59602

Date Completed: July 17, 2008

PART IV. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:

None required.

Describe public involvement, if any:

Announcement for EA comment will be published in the Judith Basin Press and on the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks website to allow an opportunity for public review. Additionally the EA will be available for review on the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks website and the deadline for public comment is August 18, 2008.